telecom facilities in Andhra Pradesh, including provision of mobile telephone facility in Rajahmundry.

All the telephone exchanges have already been made electronic with STD facility. All the modern telecom facilities such as Internet, Intelligent Network Service, Cellular Mobile Service, Radio Paging Service etc. are available in Andhra Pradesh. All the Secondary Switching Area headquarters have been provided with Internet Nodes.

The Department of Telecom Services has also decided to introduce Cellular Mobile Service in its network. Initially, it is being introduced as a pilot project in some States including Andhra Pradesh. This pilot project is likely tc be implemented by November 2000. The cities/towns proposed in Andhra Pradesh under the pilot project are Hyderabad, Vijaywada, Tirupathy, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Amalapuram and Kakinada. Rajahmundry also been now included in the pilot project. There are plans for introduction of Cellular Mobile Services in other parts of the country also.

It is proposed to cover all exchanges in Andhra Pradesh with reliable media during the year 2000-2001. In addition inaccessible and remote places in the villages are propsed to be connected by WLL Equipment.

Waiting list of telephone connections in Meghalaya

4597. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years and till date, District-wise;

(b) the time by which the above waiting list of the States are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the target fixed for granting telephone connections to all the persons in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in the

State of Meghalaya during the last three years and till date, District-wise is given below:—

Waiting list during the last three years and As on 30-4-2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.3.98	Waiting list as on 31.3.99	Waiting list as on 31.3.2000	Waiting list as on 30.4.2000
1.	Ri-Bhoi	57	263	193	237
2.	East Khasi Hills	537	311	3142	2499
3.	West Khasi Hills	24	38	229	237
4.	West Garo Hills	148	508	356	442
5.	East Garo Hills	2	6	117	118
6.	South Garo Hills	18	3	20	25
7.	Jaintia Hills	22	—	191	249
	TOTAL :	808	1175	4248	3807

(b) The above waiting list of 30.4.2000 of the State is likely to be cleared by the end of 2000 progressively.

(c) The telephone connections in the State are likely to be provided on demand by March, 2001.

Violation of rules for setting up a telephone exchange

†4598. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain minimum number of telephone consumers has been fixed for setting up of a telephone exchange;

(b) if so, what is this number and whether this rule with regard to number is still being violated at a number of places in the country; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.